

**TALBOT COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EASTON, MD 21601**

**POLICY CODE: 10.15 AR  
ADOPTED: 9/20/17  
REVISED: 10/18/17  
REVISED: 11/15/17  
REVISED: 08/12/20  
REVISED: 04/19/23  
REVISED: 02/12/25**

### **STUDENT DRESS CODE- AR**

#### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of these regulations is to establish standards for student attire. These regulations are not intended to intrude on students' ability to express themselves through their dress, so long as such expression does not interfere with an environment that is conducive to learning, does not compromise the safety of any students or staff, and does not attract an unusual amount of attention away from instruction and learning.

#### **II. STANDARDS**

The following minimum standards of dress apply to all students:

- A. Hats, toboggans, hoods, other head coverings (bandanas, wraps, etc.), and sunglasses, must be removed upon entering the school building and stored appropriately. Headwear is permitted only for health, safety, or religious reasons and must be approved by the school administrator.
- B. Outerwear (jackets and coats made specifically for outdoor use), must be removed upon entering the school building and stored appropriately. The school administrator may alter this requirement as necessary for the specific conditions within the school.
- C. Backpacks and large bags must be stored in a student's assigned locker during the school day, and may not be carried from class to class.
- D. Students shall not wear clothing and/or any other personal adornments that depict, imply, or promote profanity, obscenity, vulgarity, violence, weapons, gang activity or gang affiliation, sexually suggestive material, or the use or distribution of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or other harmful products. Clothing shall not convey establishments or

products whose names can be reasonably interpreted or construed as carrying a "double meaning" involving gang activity or gang affiliation sexual activity, or any other type of prohibited subject identified in this policy.

E. Students shall not wear clothing that demeans or promotes sexual harassment or hatred toward an identifiable person or group based on race, color, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, national origin, religion, socio-economic status, or disabling condition. This includes, but is not limited to, clothing that depicts the Confederate flag or swastikas.

F. Students shall not wear clothing or items that are libelous.

G. Body art, whether permanent or temporary, which would otherwise violate this policy if depicted on attire, must be completely covered during the school day or at any school- sponsored or school-sanctioned event.

H. Students shall not wear jewelry and accessories (spikes, dog collars, etc.) that are deemed dangerous or that may be used as a weapon, or piercings that are deemed a safety hazard.

I. Students shall not wear clothing that attracts an unusual amount of attention away from instruction and learning. Certain body parts must be covered for all students. Clothes must be worn in a way such that the chest, midriff, pelvic/groin area, and buttocks are covered.

J. See-through or mesh shirts, tops, dresses, slacks, or shorts may only be worn over other appropriate clothing.

K. Pants or shorts that contain holes or slits above the mid-thigh revealing any part of the pelvic or groin area are not to be worn.

L. Pajama bottoms, pajama tops, and/or slippers may not be worn.

M. Tights may not be worn without an appropriate dress, sweater, or top that covers them to the mid-thigh.

- N. Shorts, dresses, and/or skirts that are shorter in length than the mid-thigh are not permitted.
- O. Pants must be worn high enough to cover the pelvic/groin and buttocks area, and must cover the student's underwear.
- P. Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Q. During times of crisis, like a global pandemic, students may be required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) such as face masks or gloves. They may also be required to carry a backpack if student lockers are unavailable due to the need to keep students physically distant from each other. The standards as outlined above apply to any PPE and/or backpacks that students would be required to use.

### **III. IMPLEMENTATION**

- A. It is the responsibility of all administrators and school staff to enforce these standards with all students in all schools. Enforcement of these standards shall be equitable and consistent regardless of a student's race, color, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, national origin, religion, socio-economic status, or disabling condition.
- B. Implementation of these standards shall minimize interruption to instruction. If a student fails to observe these standards, a staff member or administrator shall discretely and respectfully request that the student rectify their attire. This communication shall avoid drawing undue attention to the student.
- C. If a student needs to rectify their attire, it shall be done in a manner that has a minimal impact on their learning.
- D. In the event that the student refuses to rectify their attire, the student will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Talbot County Code of Conduct (Policy 10.14).

### **IV. COMMUNICATION**

- A. The standards outlined in these Administrative Regulations shall be communicated to students and parents/guardians on an annual basis. This communication shall be done in writing and verbally through methods that may include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Student handbook

2. Grade level or classroom meetings
3. School newsletter
4. New school orientation
5. Back to school meetings
6. Summer mailings
7. County and/or school websites
8. County and/or school social media

B. If a student is disciplined for failure to observe these standards, an administrator shall review the standards during a conference with the student and the parents/guardians.

C. In the event that a student's violation of these regulations simultaneously violate any other Board policy, the administrator shall follow the regulations of both policies and respond according to the Talbot County Public Schools Code of Conduct.

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